

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 1 will have been amended. Claims 2-13 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and new claims 14-17 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Thus, claims 1 and 14-17 are pending in the application.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and proper and is thus respectfully requested, in due course.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 3-7, 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled these rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of claims no longer exist, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. (US 6,580,873) in view of Lin et al. (US 6,574,417). Applicants respectfully disagree and thus traverse.

Applicants' invention as recited in amended claim 1 is directed to a video data file integrating apparatus for integrating original un-integrated video data files, including: a conversion processor that converts the original un-integrated video data files having a data format of an original un-integrated directory file structure with a first hierarchy, into an integrated video data file having a data format having a different directory file structure with a

second hierarchy, which is different from the first hierarchy; and a generation processor that generates reproduction control information, which includes information of the original un-integrated directory file structure with the first hierarchy, and records the reproduction control information into a management information file including management information of the integrated video data file after the conversion, when the conversion processor performs the conversion.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references, nor any combination of references disclose the combination of features recited in Applicants' claim 1.

As a non-limiting disclosed example, the original un-integrated directory structure as shown in Fig. 1 is different from the directory structure after the integration as shown in Fig. 2. The hierarchy or height of the original un-integrated directory structure is also different from the hierarchy of the directory structure after the integration. When the video data files of the original un-integrated directory file structure as shown in Fig. 1 is converted and integrated into the data file of the directory file structure as shown in Fig. 2, the reproduction control information is generated based on the original un-integrated directory file structure including the hierarchy, and the generated reproduction control information is added in the management information file 211.

Using such reproduction control information, original un-integrated video data files having a data format of an original un-integrated directory file structure with an original first hierarchy different the hierarchy of the data structure after the integration can be recovered from an integrated video data file.

The Examiner indicated that the original PGC and the user-defined PGC shown in Fig. 36 of Ando et al. respectively correspond to the original directory file structure and the reproduction control information, as recited in claim 1 (before amendment). The user-defined PGC defines a

playback order of cells (programs) based on the user's request. As shown in Figs. 5, 30 and 36, for example, the playback order of the initially recorded contents has been changed by the user using a user-defined PGC (col. 43, line 26). Thus, although the order of playback or reproduction has been changed between the original PGC and the user-defined PGC, the hierarchy (height) of the data structure is not changed between the original PGC and the user-defined PGC. In other words, the PGC of Ando et al. is only information for identifying an order of reproducing cells, and therefore is not information of a directory structure and a hierarchy (thereof) in which each cell has been stored, as recited in Applicants' claims.

Lin et al. discloses that the original read-only format of the disc 14 is re-formatted into the generic data format. The re-formatted data is re-stored back on the disc 14 (col. 10, line 26). However, Lin et al. also does not disclose or teach about the change in hierarchy between the read-only format and the generic data format.

Accordingly, at least based on the lack of disclosure regarding the above-described and explicitly recited features, in the claimed combination, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, even if combined as set forth in the Official Action, disclose or render obvious the combination of features recited in Applicants' independent claim 1, and thus, the Examiner's rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper.

The newly submitted dependent claims in the present application are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the references relied upon based upon their dependence from shown to be allowable base claim, as well as based upon their own additional recitations.

Accordingly, in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that he has now overcome the outstanding rejections in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

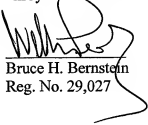
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application into condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the independent claim to clarify the feature of the invention and to emphasize distinctions between the present invention and the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner. Applicants have also canceled several claims and submitted several new claims.

Applicants have discussed the disclosure of each reference cited by the Examiner against the claims of the present application and with respect to such disclosure has noted the significant and substantial deficiencies thereof. Applicants have additionally discussed the explicit recitations of Applicants' claims and with respect to such recitations have noted the shortcomings of the disclosures of the references applied thereagainst. Accordingly, Applicants have provided clear bases for the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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